

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are now pending in this application. Claims 3 and 4 are herein amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, at least at page 3, lines 9-16. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 10, 13, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Chambers, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0209972. Claim 3 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claims 5-9, 11, 12, 14, and 17 were indicated as allowable, but objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Applicant thanks the Office for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 10, 13, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Chambers. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as the Chambers reference was not filed nor published prior to the earliest priority date of the present application.

The present application has a PCT filing date of June 20, 2003. However, it claims priority to German Patent Application 102 38 369.3, filed August 22, 2002. The Chambers reference was published October 21, 2004, and claims priority to a provisional application filed April 18, 2003. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55, Applicants will submit a certified English translation of the DE 102 38 369.3 priority document shortly. The submission of the English translation, together with a statement verifying the accuracy of the translation, will perfect priority to the August 22, 2002 filing date of the German application, earlier than the Chambers reference. Upon this perfection, Applicants will request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

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